

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A single phase dentifrice composition comprising:
 - a. an effective amount of one or more linear polyphosphates having an average chain length of about 4 or more, wherein said polyphosphate is water soluble and susceptible to hydrolysis;
 - b. an effective amount of a stannous ion source; and
 - c. a total water content of up to about 20%,wherein the single phase dentifrice composition has a molar ratio of polyphosphate anion to stannous ion of from about 0.2:1 to about 5:1, wherein the stannous ion source comprises a stannous salt other than stannous fluoride or stannous monofluorophosphate, and the efficacy of the stannous ion in the dentifrice is not reduced by the polyphosphate
2. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 1 wherein the polyphosphate is in an amount of from about 1% to about 20%.
3. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 2 wherein the stannous ion is present in an amount of from about 3,000 ppm to about 15,000 ppm.
4. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 3 wherein the polyphosphate has a chain length of 6 or more.
5. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 4 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of linear "glassy" polyphosphates having the formula



wherein X is sodium or potassium and n averages from about 6 to about 21.

6. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 5 wherein the stannous ion source comprises stannous chloride dihydrate.
7. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of polyphosphate anion to stannous ion is from about 0.5:1 to about 3:1.

8. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 5 wherein the total water content is from about 2% to about 20%.
9. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 5 wherein the polyphosphate has an average chain length of about 21.
10. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 9 further comprising aqueous carriers which are materials selected from the group consisting of fluoride ion sources, tartar control agents, antibacterial agents, surfactants, thickening materials, humectants, water, buffering agents, titanium dioxide, flavor systems, sweetening agents, coloring agents, and mixtures thereof.
11. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 10 wherein the fluoride ion source is selected from the group consisting of sodium fluoride, stannous fluoride, indium fluoride, and sodium monofluorophosphate.
12. A dentifrice composition according to Claim 10 wherein the thickening material is selected from the group consisting of carboxyvinyl polymers, carrageenan, hydroxyethyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, sodium hydroxyethyl cellulose, gum karaya, xanthan gum, gum arabic, gum tragacanth, magnesium aluminum silicate, silica and mixtures thereof.